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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 09/912,049

Examiner: (not assigned)

Filing Date: July 24, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1615

Inventors: Rehberger et al.

Title: *Direct-Fed Microbial*

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent
and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted under the provision of 37 CFR §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b)(3). The Examiner is apprised of co-pending Application Serial No. 09/292,720, filed April 15, 1999, which discloses and claims subject matter similar to that disclosed in this application (copy enclosed). A copy of each reference or document listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 is also included as required under 37 CFR § 1.98.

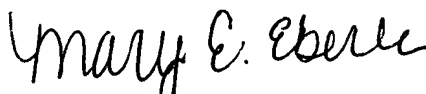
Applicants make no assertion regarding the materiality of the documents noted in the attached Form PTO-1449. Applicants therefore request that these documents be considered during the examination of the instant application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted prior to the mailing of a first office action on the merits as permitted under § 1.97(b)(3) and, therefore, no fee is due at this time.

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Serial No. 09/912,049 by Rehberger et al.
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However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fee(s) associated with this or any other communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170, if necessary.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: July 17, 2002

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